Colachal Port

*247. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint venture agreement was entered into for development of Colachal Port with Klana Port of Malaysia;

(b) if so, the major terms of agreement and the time-frame before which the project is to be completed;

(c) the present stage and progress of the project;

(d) whether there are any constraints in the completion of the project;

(e) if so, the measures envisaged to get over such problems; and

(f) the initiatives taken to develop the minor ports in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) Colachel Port is a Non-Major Port under the jurisdiction of the State Government of Tamil Nadu. According to the information received from the Government of Tamil Nadu, no joint venture agreement has been entered into by them with Klang Port of Malaysia for the development of Colachel Port. The Government of Tamil Nadu has further informed that their earlier Port Policy of 1996-97 has now been amended, with effect from August, 2007 to attract private investment and develop captive ports and commercial ports to handle various types of cargo and that the new policy is expected to lead to development of Non-Major ports in Tamil Nadu.

Boundary talks with China

*248. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether boundary talks between India and China had made significant progress and the border areas remained peaceful and tranquil and whether this issue was discussed with the Chinese President during his recent visit to India;

(b) if so, the other issues that were discussed;

(c) whether any final agreement on the boundary issue was signed; and

(d) if so, the latest position thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (b) India and China are engaged in discussions to arrive at a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question. There have been ten meetings of the Special Representatives so far. The first five meetings resulted in the signing of the "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question" on April 11, 2005 during the visit of the Chinese Premier to India. Presently, the Special Representatives are exploring the framework for a final package settlement covering all sectors of the boundary on the basis of this Agreement. The next (eleventh) round of talks between the Special Representatives will be held at a mutually convenient time.